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tion a depressing effect might have appeared on wages. Of course this would not affect the propriety of rent taxation in cities. To return to Mr. Bentley's valuable investigation. The results of a canvass of the conditions of every farmer in the township, past and present, he tabulates in twenty-two interesting tables. He finds that the farmer has not as good a market now as formerly, when he sold to other settlers and mine and railroad workers at high prices, whereas now he must give to the railroads for freight to Chicago one-third of the low price for corn obtainable there. Further, the settling up of the country and spread of the social conditions of the East, almost forces the self-respecting American-born farmer to a higher and more expensive standard of living than was thought of in the primitive sod hut. Here, by the way, is an important explanation of the depressed condition of Western agriculture. I have noticed in eastern Iowa how the American, with his decencies and comforts of life, is unable to pay off his mortgage, and is driven out by the cheaper living German, who soon clears off all debts, and vegetates in conditions somewhat like those in the old country. In the midst of such competition from our immigrants no wonder that the farmer finds the price of grain has fallen to his hurt more than have the prices of most other products covered in such multiple standard tables as those of Soetheer. Even the fall in interest has been, in our author's opinion, counterbalanced by the greater amount of capital needed. In his typical township 65 per cent. of the acres are mortgaged for an average of \$8.78 an acre, or over one-third of their value.

E. W. B.

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*Prisoners and Paupers.* By HENRY M. BOIES, M.A. New York : G. P. Putnam's Sons. 8vo. pp. 318.

THE author of this book undertakes to show the extent of crime and pauperism in the United States and to consider somewhat comprehensively the whole broad problem of their causes and remedies. The practical suggestions of the book are frequently good. Much of the statistical work is not good. Mr. Boies is unjustifiably pessimistic. He learns from the census returns that the number of prisoners in this country was about one-half more in 1890 than in 1880, while the population increased by only about one-fourth, and he finds that the government expenditure for almshouses has enormously

increased in the same period. He seems to conclude that there had been a corresponding increase of depravity and pauperism. On the contrary, as to pauperism, the census returns show that the number of paupers in almshouses has been steadily declining since 1860, the numbers per million of population in the respective census years being 2,638, 1,990, 1,320 and 1,166. As to crime Mr. Boies might have found also in the census returns much reason for qualifying his gloomy view of American society, and even some reason for positive satisfaction, in the comparison of conditions at the beginning and end of the decade. For example, the number of prisoners confined for offenses against property had increased from 1880 to 1890 by less than seventeen per cent. (population increasing 24.86 per cent.). Among crimes against the person the number of assaults of all sorts (as indicated by the number of prisoners) had increased less than five per cent. in spite of the great increase in population. The number of inmates of juvenile reformatories in the North Atlantic division of the Union absolutely decreased forty-four per cent. in the ten years. The increased number of certain classes of prisoners, such as those confined for homicide or offences against public morality, are often susceptible of explanations well-known or offered by the census bulletins themselves. Vicious immigration, intemperance, the relative increase of the city population, and stupid laws badly administered, are mentioned by Mr. Boies as causes of the present crime and dependency.

Mr. Boies argues for the indeterminate sentence and for the management of paupers with a view to aiding them to support themselves. But if the defects are congenital the remedy is to be found in a gradual extermination of the defective stock, the propagation of a criminal or incapable line being prevented by the prohibition of marriage or even by a resort to surgery. The argument for the extirpation of the defective, relentless but certainly not inhumane, is the best and most characteristic feature of the book.

AMBROSE P. WINSTON.